



**Fatality #13 - April 10, 2003**  
**Electrical - Underground - West Virginia**  
**Energy Plus, Inc. - No. 50 Mine**  
**(Chargeback -- accident occurred 03/23/2003)**

**COAL MINE FATALITY** – On March 23, 2003, a 51-year-old section foreman, with 25 years mining experience, sustained serious burn injuries from a 480-volt receptacle located on a section power center. The injuries apparently occurred when the victim used the energized receptacle to detonate explosives while developing a boom-hole. He died at a burn center on April 10, 2003. The victim was not a qualified electrician or a certified shot-firer.



### **Best Practices**

- Ensure that persons using explosives are thoroughly trained and certified.
- Comply with all blasting regulations and any approved plans/permits.
- Prior to using explosives, discuss and establish safe work procedures to complete the job and identify possible hazards.
- Ensure that the proper equipment is utilized to initiate explosive charges.
- Do not insert anything other than appropriate plugs into receptacles.

This fatality was determined to be chargeable to the coal mining industry on May 15, 2003. This was the 13<sup>th</sup> fatality reported in calendar year 2003 in the coal mining industry. As of this date in 2002, there were 12 fatalities reported in the coal mining industry. This is the second fatality classified as Electrical in 2003. At this time in 2002, there were two Electrical fatalities.